National Model United Nations

Week A

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United Nations Population Fund Executive Board

Documentation
United Nations Population Fund – Executive Board

Committee Staff

Director        Sophie Crockett-Chaves
Assistant Director  N/A
Chair          Felix Martens
Rapporteur       N/A
Rapporteur       N/A

Agenda

1. Correlations between Youth Poverty and the Prevalence of HIV/AIDS
2. Addressing the Custom of Child Marriage and its Impact on Girls
3. Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa

Resolutions adopted by the committee

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United Nations Population Fund Summary Report

The Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund held its first regular session to consider the following agenda items: Addressing the Custom of Child Marriage and its Impact on Girls; Correlations between Youth Poverty and the Prevalence of HIV/AIDS; Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The session was attended by 30 Member States of the United Nations Population Fund Executive Board.

The session opened with several statements concerning the adoption of the agenda. At its first meeting, the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund agreed to discuss the Correlations between Youth Poverty and the Prevalence of HIV/AIDS as its first item of the agenda, to be followed by Addressing the Custom of Child Marriage and its Impact on Girls, and then Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

During the following committee sessions, working groups formed and identified several key sub-topics, *inter alia*, research on the correlations of youth poverty and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, education and the reduction of stigmatization of HIV/AIDS patients, the improvement of medical infrastructure, and the cooperation with local groups to reach out to constituencies cut off from official channels like schools or the media. The relevance of the Correlations between Youth Poverty and the Prevalence of HIV/AIDS for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was an important overarching theme for all working groups.

By the end of the fifth session, six working papers were submitted to the dais, some of which introduced a gender perspective and women’s education, as well as sustainability as important variables for the topic at hand. Three of these working papers were merged during the sixth session due to substantive overlaps. At the end of the sixth session, the first draft resolution was accepted by the dais.

The Member States used the seventh session to finalize their working papers. At the beginning of the eighth session, three more draft resolutions were introduced to the body. Two friendly amendments were submitted to the dais prior to voting, both of which concerned draft resolution UNFPA/1/1.

At the end of the eighth session, the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund adopted four resolutions. UNFPA/1/1 and UNFPA/1/3 were adopted by acclamation and underscored the cooperative spirit of the body. The remaining two resolutions were adopted by a roll call vote. UNFPA resolution 1/2 passed with 24 votes in favor, 3 against and 2 abstentions, and UNFPA resolution 1/4 passed with 24 votes 2 against and 3 abstentions. All four resolutions reaffirm the commitment of the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund for the fight against youth poverty, HIV/AIDS and the correlation between the two.

The Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund adjourned the annual session upon the adoption of these four resolutions.
Recognizing the correlation between youth poverty and HIV/AIDS and the need to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1 and 6 as stated in the Millennium Declaration of 2000,

Acknowledging that infrastructure development and job creation is necessary to achieve Millennium Development Goal 6,

Recollecting the commitment of Member States to fulfill financial and technical obligations as dictated by the Rome Declaration,

Affirming the right of all persons to healthcare as detailed in Article 16 of the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights,

Cognizant of the need to uphold the rights of persons affected by HIV/AIDS in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Bearing in mind the objectives of the Declaration of Commitment against HIV/AIDS,

Confirming the vital role information communication technologies play in encouraging transparency between states and addressing international issues,

The United Nations Population Fund Executive Board,

1) Proposes further capacity building measures through bilateral partnerships, similar to Italy’s Anti-AIDS Association in Cameroon, that assists orphans in managing their health needs by engaging in open dialogue forums to establish these partnerships;

2) Encourages Member States to uphold financial commitments on aid, especially aid that is to be allocated to combating HIV/AIDS and poverty by:

a. Encouraging South-South cooperation in addition to North-South cooperation in order to thoroughly address the issues of youth poverty and HIV/AIDS,

b. Recommending additional development assistance by developed countries,

c. Inviting the European Social Inclusion Fund to provide resources to states in need in order to achieve the objectives of programs addressing poverty stricken communities,
d. Reminding Member States that the cooperative efforts should be in the spirit of an equal partnership which respects all participating parties and empowers the national governments;

3) **Recommends** Member States to enable the production and distribution of low-cost generic HIV/AIDS medications in order to make treatment accessible to youth deprived of adequate access to healthcare that are affected by HIV/AIDS and suggests the internal distribution of such medications in a accessible manner within Member States;

4) **Encourages** all developing states to adopt the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper in order to ensure transparent public resource management and the improvement of infrastructure to reduce poverty and consequentially combat HIV/AIDS;

5) **Recommends** Member States to utilize the United Nations Office for Project Services in order to facilitate medical infrastructure development in rural areas with higher risk of HIV/AIDS by encouraging capacity building, local employment and training in the development of healthcare infrastructure and services specifically targeting youth and suggesting all new infrastructure to be constructed in a sustainable manner;

6) **Urges** Member States to participate in multilateral partnerships, similar to the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership, in order to ensure that the ethical treatment of persons with HIV/AIDS remains a top priority when furthering research in medical care that prevents the spread of HIV/AIDS and ensures that persons with HIV/AIDS have access to health care services, especially the youth;

7) **Encourages** a multi-sector approach that unites science, business, civil society, governments, and non-governmental organizations, so that poverty and HIV/AIDS may be addressed in a simultaneous manner;

8) **Requests** Member States to utilize information and communication technologies (ICTs) to ensure transparency and efficiency in the creation of a comprehensive strategy that enhances the medical capacity of states through:

a. The utilization of existing ICT programs, such as India’s Pan-African E-Network, in order to facilitate information sharing between states concerning best practices for treating HIV/AIDS among poverty stricken communities with a high percentage of youth,

b. Following the framework of the European Union’s Youth Strategy in providing training on how to use ICTs,

c. The promotion of the effective use of ICTs to coordinate this strategy.
Reaffirming actions taken towards accomplishing Millennium Development Goals 1 and 6,

Deeply concerned that in the 30 years since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, more than 60 million people have been infected, more than 26 million people have died, and more than 16 million children have been orphaned,

Expressing appreciation for the tremendous progress made concerning the reduction of poverty to less than half the global poverty rate in 1990 as reported in the Millennium Development Goal Report (2012),


Recalling that according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS World AIDS Day Report 2012, raising awareness among high risk groups is essential to combating HIV/AIDS,

Stressing Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates access to medical care and necessary social services as an inalienable right,

Noting with regret that in many Member States, the direct medical cost of AIDS is significantly higher than overall public-health spending per capita per year,

Further recalling the milestones of the fight against youth-poverty and HIV/AIDS such as the World Programme of Action for Youth (1996) and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001) as well as the United Nations Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (2011),

Emphasizing the commitment to coherence among different UN bodies, including the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 (2003) and the establishment of this common executive body,

Noting effective bilateral initiatives, which emphasize the improvement of employment opportunities for the uneducated youth, as well as projects that focus on young people of ethnic minorities from rural areas,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/215 (2011) which promotes the need for strategies to decrease youth unemployment,
Recognizing that psycho-social support can advance the efforts of conventional treatment methods by discouraging the behaviours that increase the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, such as intravenous drug use and unprotected sex,

Reiterating successful microfinance initiatives which focus on developing countries and the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF) supporting low skilled workers in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America,

Recalling Security Council resolution 10272 and Economic and Social Council resolution E/Res/2011/19 to draw attention to the far-reaching negative impacts of HIV/AIDS in all aspects of human society, particularly the economy and healthcare,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/155 (2012) that promotes development as a fundamental human right in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and the unique role that the private sector plays in driving development and economic growth in cooperation with civil society and the public sector to work towards the elimination of poverty,

The United Nations Population Fund Executive Board,

1) Emphasizes the need to implement a grassroots approach, targeting those who have not had access to formal education, by instructing local leaders in establishing partnerships with nongovernmental organizations and bilateral donors to address issues related to HIV/AIDS, unsafe sex, hygiene for intravenous drug use, and testing for sexually transmitted infections amongst the youth;

2) Recommends the implementation of medical facilities that offer sexually transmitted infection testing in addition to a wide array of other medical treatments in order to ensure social acceptance of these facilities;

3) Calls upon Member States to include non-discriminatory free testing as part of existing national strategies to combat HIV/AIDS or to develop such strategies if not yet existent and, as part of such testing and available treatment, educate the youth on HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention;

4) Invites Member States to strengthen the capacity of healthcare through multilateral programs such as the UNFPA Investing in Midwives and the European Union’s Capacity Building and Training in HIV/AIDS Treatment and Management across Europe initiative;

5) Encourages Member States, NGOs, and the private sector to allocate a proportion of their existing HIV/AIDS relief budgets to further develop awareness campaigns and educational programs that encompass sexual health, human rights, and treatment methods in addition to providing preventative mechanisms such as contraceptives while emphasizing equality for both genders as it relates to youth poverty and HIV/AIDS;

6) Encourages Member States to adopt comprehensive non-discriminatory policies and integrate them into existing national strategies to combat HIV/AIDS among poverty-stricken youth through the following actions:
a) Initiating treatment at an earlier stage in the course of HIV,

b) Providing HIV-positive pregnant women lifetime anti-retroviral treatment as funded by the Official Development Assistance from the Member States of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development,

c) Offering psycho-social programs adapted towards youth in poverty in additional to conventional treatment methods;

7) requests the General Assembly to call upon the Member States to consider the adoption of initiatives which focus on improving employment prospects for disadvantaged youth as a measure to reduce poverty and subsequently the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS through complete vocational education and relevant training focused in promising sectors of the economy;

8) recommends that states adopt microfinance initiatives which promote social programs to reduce poverty and subsequently the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and economic inequality for the low-skilled, poverty-stricken youth;

9) suggests further strengthening the dialogue between the United Nations Population Fund, national governments, and local authorities such as but not limited to leaders of faith-based organizations, as a way to raise awareness and open discussion on the issue of HIV/AIDS amongst youth;

10) takes note of the need for the implementation of alternative preventive methods for the locally identified high-risk populations, such as but not limited the homeless, homosexuals, intravenous drug users and sex workers;

11) encourages Member States to research the practicality, within their national legal framework, of establishing safe injection sites as a means of HIV/AIDS prevention.
Emphasizing the importance of finding innovative and collaborative solutions to reach Millennium Development Goals 1 and 6,

Deeply distressed by the present situation of poverty stricken youth exposed to HIV/AIDS infection and recognizing its social, global implications,

Recalling the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, particularly section 8.29 (c) “to intensify research on methods to control the HIV/AIDS pandemic,”

Guided by the important emphasis on the support and empowerment of global youth populations presented in the World Programme of Action for Youth,

Recognizing the lack of comprehensive data on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among homeless and other marginalized youth populations,

Recalling the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the subsequent General Assembly decision, A/67/L.48/rev.1, which created the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming the advisory role of the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) to refer new ideas and initiatives to other organizations to facilitate the efficient and effective achievement of their objectives,

The United Nations Population Fund Executive Board,

1) Invites the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to consider HIV/AIDS in its full program of work, especially in its correlation to youth poverty;

2) Refers to the United Nations Statistics Division the creation of a database supplemented by new and ongoing research aimed at analyzing the correlation between youth poverty and HIV/AIDS and identifying areas for improving methods of research and data collection, particularly regarding youth populations that have been difficult to access through traditional research methods;

3) Invites the United Nations Statistics Division to include, in the annual Millennium Development Goals Report, a summary of progress made towards utilizing a better global understanding of the correlation between youth poverty and HIV/AIDS to achieve MDGs 1 and 6;
4) *Invites* the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to prioritize issues pertaining to youth poverty and HIV/AIDS by promoting community based initiatives, such as peer education programs, that improve communication between these less accessible demographics and policy makers;

5) *Further invites* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to bolster national action plans for combating HIV/AIDS within vulnerable youth populations through the improvement of health policies and country-specific pilot programs to be chosen based upon recommendations provided by the Open Working Group;

6) *Invites* Member States, private donors, and multilateral organizations to maintain or increase their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Population Fund for the purpose of supporting these efforts within various partner organizations;

7) *Reminds* the international community to maintain a spirit of collaboration in all efforts to promptly and effectively address this correlation between youth poverty and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
Reaffirming the commitment to the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 6 on eradicating extreme poverty and combating HIV/AIDS and malaria,

Applauding the achievements of World AIDS Day for investing towards educating and raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and new illnesses and inspiring alternative actions to prevent these diseases,

Recognizing that the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS as one of the largest barriers, including accessibility and awareness,

Affirming The World Programme of Action for Youth by the General Assembly 50/81 (2000), which addresses the correlation between youth and HIV/AIDS,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution S-26/2 (2001), the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS that stresses the issue of gender equality and empowerment of women that allows for the reduction of this issue,

Emphasizing that 95% of HIV infections are in developing nations according to the World Health Organization, and when it reaches epidemic proportions, HIV/AIDS destroys economic and political institutions,

Recognizing that there is a direct correlation between poverty and HIV/AIDS especially in underdeveloped countries and that one solution to alleviate poverty is through the education of children, adults and those that are at high risk which helps the countries in social, political and economic development,

Fully recognizing that sexual education is indispensable when combating HIV/AIDS but respecting state sovereignty, religion, culture and traditional values is also crucial;

Reaffirming the protection of human rights, maintaining that youth living with HIV/AIDS should enjoy the same level of inclusion in the society and access to education as healthy people, as mentioned in General Assembly 66/121 (2011),

The United Nations Population Fund Executive Board,

1) Supports the provision of education initiatives, to be incorporated in schools, with the aim of eradicating HIV/AIDS where development is hindered through programs such as:

a. Regional health strategies similar to the Mesoamerican Health System Initiative;

b. Contraceptive programs and practical education on the prevention of HIV/AIDS;
c. Peer based community education;

2) **Recommends** the development of cross-regional programs to raise awareness on the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in poverty stricken neighborhoods similar to:

a. The Red Ribbon Program that allows mobile health clinics that conduct sexual education exhibitions throughout rural regions;

b. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other relevant United Nations agencies working in conjunction with the United Nations Population Fund;

c. Other educational initiatives organized through social media campaigns to educate the youth;

3) **Further calls** for the protection and empowerment of youth affected by HIV/AIDS by addressing the social and economic needs that impact this group through leadership initiatives and strategies aimed at social inclusion in education, labor, and civil society;

4) **Stresses** the importance of gender equality and the education of girls with the aim of eradicating HIV/AIDS, and thus **encourages** Member States to incorporate women’s sexual and reproductive rights into national legislation and to promote educational opportunities for women and children;

5) **Emphasizes** the need for building adequate infrastructure to invest in health care to treat, prevent and eradicate HIV/AIDS by providing health care to the concerned groups by:

a. Calling upon full and free access to HIV/AIDS testing, including, but not limited to, the screening of pregnant women;

b. Increasing international cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, other relevant UN bodies and stakeholders;

c. Engaging in public-private partnerships to diminish the cost of HIV/AIDS medications;

d. Encompassing comprehensive health facilities that incorporate testing for other diseases so as to not stigmatize the users of such facilities;

6) **Invites** Member States to support transparency initiatives, akin to the European Union Development and Cooperation Instrument, that monitor the transaction of funds in aid provisions;
7) **Encourages** Member States to consider making improvements to national policies, initiatives, and strategies that align with the United Nations Population Fund’s mandate, with respect to their specific cultures and societal norms;

8) **Encourages** the international community to expand existing research, both national and academic, on the identification of at-risk populations, such as poverty-stricken youths and the causes and cures for HIV/AIDS;

9) **Recommends** Member States to seek funding from UN agencies, non-governmental organization, and other relevant organizations;

10) **Affirms** the need for international cooperation to stop new infections, and the importance of strengthening national, regional and sub-regional capacities with greater human, financial, and technical resources.